

wherein said retaining ring is formed from a yieldable material that yields when moved from the unyielded state to the yielded state.

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(cont'd)

~~Sub c~~ 12. (Amended) The retaining ring according to claim 3, wherein said first and second legs are substantially straight and point toward each other in the unyielded state.

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~~Sub c~~ 14. (Amended) A method for retaining an inner component within an outer component using a retaining ring comprising:

twisting the retaining ring in first direction using a tool, reducing the diameter of the ring and causing the ring to yield into a yielded state;

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aligning the ring with a groove in the outer component; and

twisting the retaining ring in second direction opposite to the first direction using the tool, increasing the diameter of the ring and causing the ring to yield into an unyielded state.

~~Sub c~~ 18. (Amended) A method for retaining an inner component within an outer housing using a retaining ring comprising:

moving the ring from a first, unyielded state, to a second, yielded state by rotating a tool engaged with opposed legs of the ring;

aligning the ring with a groove in the housing; and

moving the ring from the second, yielded state into the first, unyielded state by rotating the tool engaged with the legs of the ring,

wherein the first step of moving the ring from the first state to the second state causes the material of the ring to yield, and wherein the second step of moving the ring from the second state to the first state also causes the material to yield.

Sub C.1 21. (Amended) A retaining ring movable between an unyielded state and a yielded state, comprising:

a generally C-shaped region having an inner peripheral surface, an outer peripheral surface, a first end; and a second end, said retaining ring being formed from a yieldable material that yields when moved from the unyielded state to the yielded state; and

A.3 a first leg extending from said first end and having first tool receiving means for receiving a tool; and

a second leg extending from said second end and having second tool receiving means for receiving a tool.